

VZCZCXRO1553
RR RUEHGH
DE RUEHUL #1979 3550744
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 210744Z DEC 09
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6531
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC 9535
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7127
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0631
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7068
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUEHGH/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 1622
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 5444
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 4374
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 7585
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1858
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3162
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2238
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2844

UNCLAS SEOUL 001979

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [ECON](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [KS](#) [US](#)
SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

Copenhagen Climate Change Summit

"PREEMPTIVE MEASURES NEEDED IN ANTICIPATION OF TOUGHER CARBON
REDUCTION RULES"

Conservative Chosun Ilbo editorialized (12/21): "It is highly likely that a global warming pact will be reached before the next climate summit, which will take place in Mexico City next year. The current Kyoto Protocol is set to expire in 2012, and as long as the world does not give up battling global warming, the international community has little choice but to come up with a legally-binding treaty. ... If there is no choice but to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, then it is best to get started as soon as possible. Doing so will allow Korean businesses to get a head start in developing the technologies and building the experience needed to become globally competitive. In order to make this happen, the ROKG must establish a system that will allow businesses to become 'early movers' and take voluntary steps to cut their emissions."

"COPENHAGEN CLIMATE CONFERENCE ENDS UP JUST SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (12/21): "The leaders of the planet were not brave. ... They just dithered, preventing Copenhagen turning into 'Hopenhagen.' ... The 'Copenhagen Accord' is short on substance and is merely a face-saving measure for political leaders. ... Now the homework has been carried over to next year's climate conference in Mexico City. ... Only when all of us take concerted action under the 'Me First' spirit can we save this planet and humanity."

"MEDIATING THE INTERESTS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION"

Left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun editorialized (12/21): "The U.S. and China are largely to blame for this disappointing result, given that they account for more than 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. China, which has overtaken the U.S. as the world's biggest CO2 emitter, strongly rejected being included in the list of countries subject to mandatory emissions-reduction targets while stressing the responsibility of advanced nations. It is only

natural that developed nations should bear greater responsibility for global warming, but preventing global warming is impossible without a change in the stance of China, the 'world's factory.' The U.S., for its part, was unable to show leadership to persuade developing countries like China by taking such a lackadaisical attitude as proposing an emissions-reduction target much lower than those of the EU and Japan."

STEPHENS